

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1788 - HB 1859

January 21, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Revises the offense of cruelty to animals to establish standards for necessary shelter required to be provided to dogs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-202(a)(2), a person who intentionally or knowingly fails unreasonably to provide necessary food, water, care, or shelter for an animal in the person's custody commits the offense of cruelty to animals.
- The proposed legislation establishes standards for necessary shelter required to be provided for a dog, including requirements for ventilation, size, and the ability to retain body heat.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-202(g), cruelty to animals is a Class A misdemeanor and a second or subsequent conviction is a Class E felony.
- Based upon information provided by the Department of Correction (DOC), there has been one admission in the past 10 years for the Class E felony offense under Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-202(g) for animal cruelty.
- There will not be a sufficient change in the number of Class A misdemeanor or Class E felony prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant increase in revenue or expenditures.
- Any impact to state incarceration is estimated to be not significant.
- Based on the Fiscal Review Committee's 2008 study and the Administrative Office of the Courts' 2012 study on collection of court costs, fees, and fines, collection in criminal cases is insignificant. The proposed legislation will not significantly increase state or local revenue.

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CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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